

S/N: 09/498,926

FEB 15 2001

3723
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Dvir, Eran et.al. Examiner: Eileen P. Morgan
Serial No.: 09/498,926 Group Art Unit: 3723
Filed: February 4, 2000 Attorney Docket No.: P-743-US2
(prev:M-3417-2C
US
Title: APPARATUS FOR OPTICAL INSPECTION OF WAFERS
DURING POLISHING

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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GROUP 3700

In response to the Official Action mailed August 16, 2000, please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit Account No. 05-0649.

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action. The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicant thanks the examiner for the courtesy of a telephone interview regarding the present application.

The Telephone Interview

Initially, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner, Eileen Morgan for granting and attending the telephone interview on January 30, 2000. In the interview, the Sandhu references and the dates of the CIP part were discussed.

Claim Rejections - 35USC § 102

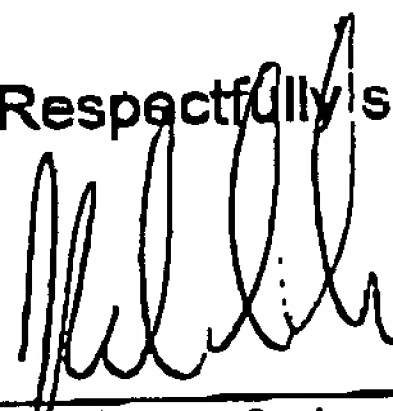
Claims 17-31 are pending and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Sandhu et al., ('183). The Examiner states that Sandhu et al., ('183) discloses a polishing wafer and measuring the thickness through optical measuring.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection refers to text forming part of the Continuation-in-part (CIP) of Ser. No 112,759 of Aug 25, 1993, filed on Oct 24, 1995 (Appl. No. 547, 944). The present application is a Continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/497,382, filed on June 29, 1995. Since this application predates the date of the CIP of Sandhu et al., ('183), the rejection under 35USC § 102 is moot.

If there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

In view of the foregoing remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: February 15, 2001

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